

## News from ENT17 SURPRICE - Sustainable mobility through Road User Charging

### **SURPRICE – an ERA-NET TRANSPORT cooperation**

In ENT17 SURPRICE, six research projects concerning road user charges have been funded through a trans-national research funding cooperation under the umbrella of ERA-NET TRANSPORT.

SURPRICE is built on an interest to coordinate and jointly carry out research projects and also to spread the results from R&D to improve the basis for policy making.

Participating countries are: Denmark, Finland, France, Sweden and Switzerland as members and Norway, Germany, The Netherlands and United Kingdom as observers.

More information is found at [www.transport-era.net/action-groups/ent17-surprice.html](http://www.transport-era.net/action-groups/ent17-surprice.html).

### **Six projects to improve knowledge on road user charging**

Six projects have been started that involve leading researchers from the member countries. The projects are.

CoAccept: Political coordination and the acceptability of road user charges. Examines whether coordination of road user charges among different jurisdictions in a transport network leads to more efficiency and political acceptability or whether it undermines it. Contact: Joel Franklin ([joelfr@infra.kth.se](mailto:joelfr@infra.kth.se)), the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden.

CompRUC: Design, interoperability and regulation of road user charging systems. The impact of different charging concepts will be evaluated in case studies and a conclusion will be made on possible development paths of a European Comprehensive road user charging system. Contact: Gunnar Lindberg ([gunnar.lindberg@vti.se](mailto:gunnar.lindberg@vti.se)), VTI, Sweden.

ExpAcc: Explanatory factors of road user charging acceptability. A cross-country comparison of decisive factors for acceptability will be made, based on identical surveys in Finland, France and Sweden, with questions regarding attitudes to road user charges under varying conditions. Contact: Jonas Eliasson ([jonas.eliasson@abe.kth.se](mailto:jonas.eliasson@abe.kth.se)), the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden.

IIVar: Equity effects of congestion charges and intra-individual variation in preferences. Estimations will be made of within-individual variation (over days and trips) of preferences for such factors as travel time, travel cost and mode specific constants. The results might either brush aside or reaffirm the conception that congestion charges have negative equity effects. Contact: Maria Börjesson ([maria.borjesson@abe.kth.se](mailto:maria.borjesson@abe.kth.se)), the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden.

Scheduling: Trip timing and scheduling preferences. Four questions of vital interest to the design and evaluation of road user charging schemes will be studied: the interaction of urban structure with trip timing; alternatives to pricing - mechanisms for allocating capacity; the nature of scheduling preferences; models for dynamic assignment and nature of equilibrium. Contact: Mogens Fosgerau ([mf@transport.dtu.dk](mailto:mf@transport.dtu.dk)), the Technical University of Denmark.

**Silverpolis:** Modelling Impacts of road user charging with mesoscopic models. An in-depth comparison of two transportation models, Metropolis and Silvester, used for predicting impacts of road user charging in European cities. Contact: Leonid Engelson (leonid.engelson@abe.kth.se), the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden.

### **Flying start after kick-off meeting**

A kick-off meeting was held in Stockholm in October 2010. The aim was to bring the researchers from the six SURPRICE projects together and to exchange ideas on how each project should be carried out and to discuss joint dissemination activities.



The kick-off meant a flying start for all six projects. Detailed work plans were drawn, ideas were exchanged between projects and new friends were found. Part of the meeting was used for discussing dissemination activities. Some ideas were to:

- Arrange a seminar called Bank of Knowledge for high level civil servants in the autumn 2011. The headline for the seminar will be: "This is what research can offer policy making".
- Aim for a special issue in a scientific journal, and possibly also a report connecting the findings from the six projects with a focus on findings that lie between the very applied and the purely theoretical.
- Arrange a special stream at a research conference in late 2012 or early 2013.
- Continuously share material between research groups and publish findings on transport-era.net and partners websites.